

PRESENTATION OF A SWORD TO COL. GASTON MEARES.

We have been furnished by the Committee with copies of Mr. Hill's address and Col. Meares' reply, on the presentation of a sword to the latter gentleman by the citizens of Wilmington, which we take pleasure in spreading before our readers.

MR. HILL'S ADDRESS.

Col. Meares—I have been appointed to a pleasant and honorable duty—that of presenting you the congratulations of your fellow-citizens on this your visit to your native place, and of presenting you, in their name, with a sword as a testimony of their appreciation of your gallantry and good conduct in the late Mexican war.

A few years ago you left the community in which you were born, to seek an honorable livelihood and worthy fame among the people of a great valley of the West—Carrying with you a courageous heart, and guided only by generous impulses, we had a right to expect that you would add another name to the bright galaxy of emigrants who have gone from North Carolina to provide over and direct the energies of her Southern sisters.

War did not then foresee, but when the sounds of hostilities commenced on the Rio Grande came to our ears, and while volunteers everywhere were responding with alacrity to the call of their country, we were proud to hear that the companion of our boyhood—the leader of our mimic battles—had dedicated his person to the service of the nation; and as the Adjutant of the gallant 2nd, had gone to fight his country's battles on the fields of Mexico.

Following the long and hazardous march of Gen. Wool, you were deprived, until the battle of Buena Vista, of an opportunity of actively engaging with the enemy; occasion was then offered for testing a young soldier's patriotism and valor. You who participated, well know all the dangers, difficulties, and the final triumph of that battle of Gen'l Taylor. The deaths of Clay, Hardin, McKee and others, together with the loss of your own gallant commander, attest the sharpness of the conflict, and the gallantry of our brave countrymen. It was, perhaps, honor enough to have fought by the side of such men; and the Secretary of War very truly remarked, in his letter to the commanding officer: "It will ever be a proud distinction to have been in the memorable battle of Buena Vista." We are the better pleased, that amid such a flash of honors—such a prodigious harvest of heroic life—as that day witnessed, the fortune of war should have graced our young Cape Fear soldier with high and honorable distinction.

Gov. Yell, killed as he was leading—the foremost man—the Arkansas cavalry against the Mexican lancers, new and more responsible duties devolved upon you. It is because you were fully equal to the emergency, and because honor, truth, and valor were ever present with you in the field, that you now behold this fair assemblage of your fellow-citizens, citizen soldiers, and fair country women, crowning and gracing this ceremony with their presence.

Yours was no excursion for popularity, you were not content with having merely manifested your patriotism and courage, by your presence in the enemy's country, for, after your term of service had expired, and the greater part of your regiment had returned home, you formed a company of the brave men who would enlist with you for your war, and again offered your services to your country, which again were most promptly accepted.

In view of your past merit, and your future career, this day has been chosen with special reference to its association. It is the anniversary of the great battle of New Orleans. The spirit of Jackson seems to claim the day as peculiarly its own; and what preceding influence, let me ask, could more appropriately fill our hearts? The memory of the model soldier and the pure patriot, must hereafter be associated with the occasion—His upright strength that never quivered amid the lightning storms that flashed around him in battle or in controversy, his adamant judgment, against which adverse opinions dashed themselves to break in scattered foam, his far-reaching faith and earnest affection—his parent tenderness and humble fidelity as a sworn servant of the people, who gave him rule and elevation—form a character worthy of all imitation, and calculated impressively to influence one whose early career like his has been smit with war and its triumphs.

Proud America! who, in her short but unparalleled career, can already boast so many days made sacred and festive by the great acts of her great men! Hearty congratulations to our town, which henceforth will be enabled to associate with the memory of a world-renowned hero—the modest and unassuming man of one of her own true sons!

And now, Colonel, in delivering you this sword, I would fain express to you the pleasure it affords us, to see you thus safe and honored amongst us. While another of our brave townsmen—the lamented Capt. Burghwin—was called upon to seal with his blood, and to testify by his death, his devotion to duty and his country, you, unharmed, and yet with proud laurels upon your brow, have been permitted to return once more to the bosom of your family and friends. We have paid the last sad rites of sepulture to him, we would now, by this sword, presented on the very spot where his eulogy was spoken, acknowledge our obligation and exhibit our pride in you.

Whenever hereafter you look upon it, we desire that the recollections it will excite may encourage you onward in the path of right and duty. In the warfare and struggles in which peace no less than war abounds, it will testify to you the generous rewards of a faithful discharge of your citizenship; and if again called to the field in defence of the Constitution and our glorious Union, or for the perpetration of our Republican system, though the words are not inscribed on its blade, let the presiding genius of the day lead it to his voice.

"Draw me not without occasion; sheathe me not without honor."

Mr. Hill having concluded, Col. Meares spoke as follows:

Mr. Hill:—In accepting, at your hands, this token of regard for the services rendered by me in the late Mexican war, I would fain find language adequate to express the grateful sentiments of my heart for the honor thus bestowed upon me. Whatever may have been the privations endured, or dangers encountered, in that arduous service, still the gratification of knowing the deep sympathy of our friends at home, always ready to succor when circumstances required, and the evidences of esteem manifested by them on our return, these I can assure you, will ever be grateful recollections, never to be effaced.

At the commencement of the late war, when our comparatively small army was suddenly thrown in contact with an immensely superior force—thereby rendering its situation extremely critical—but one impulse pervaded the American people; all were eager to share their fate, and those considered themselves the most fortunate who were so situated as to be able to assist in such a manner. The success consequent upon our aims, in the

first instance, and that high degree of patriotism which seemed to animate the whole nation, subsequently led to a series of victories, redounding to the honor of our common country. It was a war peculiarly calculated to reflect upon the whole nation, inasmuch as but comparatively a small proportion of those engaged in it were professional soldiers. They were men taken from the various pursuits of civil life, and consequently illustrating more powerfully the real strength of the nation.

That feeling of independence and sense of honor, inculcated by the spirit of our institutions, which makes every citizen a soldier when his country requires his services, was well calculated to establish the subjects of those governments whose policy it is to enervate and destroy the nobler qualities of man. The truth has been happily illustrated, that the strength of our nation does not consist in large standing armies, the characteristic feature of monarchial powers, but that our country will always find its surest defence in that spirit which animates the bosoms of its citizens. Our Regular Army, so limited in its numbers, and scattered over so wide an extent of country, is happily so constituted as not to become odious to the community. Intended, as it chiefly is, to disseminate and encourage a scientific knowledge of the various branches of the military art, the late war, whilst it has displayed their valor, has likewise shown their superiority to the most enlightened nations of Europe, in their attainment in the profession. Our Military Academy, whilst it has kept together a nucleus, the value of which its services will sufficiently attest has likewise furnished many, throughout the wide extent of our population, who have been always found ready to enlist in the cause of the Republic. That those, once members of the institution, and who had subsequently abandoned the profession of arms, were not unmindful of that debt due their country for their fostering care, I might cite the list of McKee, Clay, and many others, whose lives were devoted to her cause.

The State of North Carolina has not wanting in that degree of ardor and patriotism which has ever animated her sons. Being among the first in that war for our independence, from which has flowed the innumerable blessings we now enjoy, she has always been found ready to sustain them. During the latter part of my service, I formed a part of the same division of the army with the North Carolina Regiment, and I am proud to say (in doing which I speak the common sentiment of those who knew them) that there were none in the service whose conduct was uniformly more correct or soldier-like. They were noted for their excellent discipline, and experience proves that in times calculated to try them, those troops usually acquire themselves best who are in the highest state of discipline.

I do not deem it necessary, on this occasion, to dwell longer upon events connected with the war. The various official reports, emanating from time to time from our distinguished leaders, have rendered them familiar. In enlisting in the service, I felt it a duty due my country, for favors received at her hands—This, to me, had been none other, than to have been successful inducement. Having endeavored to perform that duty faithfully, it will ever be a source of the happiest reflection, that the citizens of this native place, should have placed so high an estimate upon my services as is presented by this distinguished mark of their favor.

Allow me, in conclusion, to return you my cordial thanks for the highly flattering manner in which you have been pleased to mention my service in connection with this war; and I can assure you that the spirit of approbation which reigns here to-day will ever be the highest inducement to us to wear this testimonial of their regard as never to forfeit that confidence of my fellow-countrymen dearer than life itself.

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION.—At a special election for members of Congress in Massachusetts on the 1st inst., D. P. King, (Whig,) was re-elected to Congress in the 21st district; John G. Palfrey, (free soil,) in the 4th; Allen, (free soil,) over Hudson, (Whig,) the present member, in the 6th; and Fowler, (Whig,) in the 9th.

Troops for California.—The transport ship Mary and Adelaide sailed from Old Point Comfort, a few days since, for California, with Companies A and F, 2d reg. U. S. Inf. The following is a list of officers of the detachment:

Capt. H. Day, 2d inf., com'd; Asst. Surgeon, C. P. Dwyer, U. S. A.; Capt. C. S. Lovell, 2d inf. and Ludv. DeLozier Davidson, 2d inf., and family; 1st Lt. James W. Schureman, 2d inf., Co. A; 2d Lt. H. B. Henderson, do. Co. F; Passenger, G. P. Hyslop.

THE POSTAL TREATY WITH ENGLAND.—DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

The following letter from our Washington correspondent, says the Baltimore Sun, furnished with the details of the Postal Treaty just concluded with England, a copy of which was brought over by the Europa:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3, 1849.

The Postal Treaty with England has not yet reached the Post Office Department, but a copy of it was handed to the Postmaster General through the politeness of Mr. Crampton, British Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

The principal stipulations are probably the following:

Postage across the sea 16 cents.
English inland postage 3 " "
U. S. inland postage 5 " "
The sea postage paid to the vessel performing the service

Transit rate thro' this country to Canada 6 cts. Ad. 25 cts. for postage by the ocean, instead of paying by letter.

Transit through England the inland postage and 25 per cent.

Transit through Canada, the Canadian rates.

Newspapers between England and the U. S., and vice versa 2 cts.

Periodicals weighing 2 oz., 1 penny, or 2 cts. over 2 oz. and under 3 do., 6d., or 12 cts. over 3 oz. and under 6 do., 8d., or 16 cts. And 2 pence, or 4 cents, for each ounce or fraction.

In consequence of this treaty, the Postmaster General has this day issued the annexed circular to Postmasters:

To the Postmasters of the United States:—Information having been received at the Department, that a postal treaty between the U. S. and Great Britain has been entered into, and that in pursuance thereof the British Government had directed that the postage of 24 cents, charged upon letters taken to or from that country in the packets of the U. S., be remitted.

In consequence thereof, the order of this Department, made the 29th of June last, directing the same rates to be charged upon letters brought to or taken from the U. S. States, in packets of the United Kingdom, be, and the same is hereby rescinded. Other instructions for carrying the treaty into effect, will be given, upon the ratification of the Treaty.

CAVE JOHNSON, Postmaster Gen'l.
Post Office Dept., 3d January, 1849.

FOREIGN.

3 DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The American steamship Washington, arrived at New York on the 8th instant. She sailed from Southampton on the 20th ultimo, and brings dates from Liverpool to the 19th ult., three days later than the Europa's news. We are indebted to the Baltimore Sun, of the 9th instant, for the following summary of the Washington's news:

THE MARKETS.

Liverpool Cotton Market, Dec. 19.—William & Smith's European Times, of the 19th ult., says that for the week previous, the cotton trade had been much more animated and prosperous. A slight advance in prices was reported for the week ending on the day the Europa sailed.

On Saturday business was somewhat checked by the extreme rates generally demanded by holders, but on Monday the sales exceeded those of any previous market this year. There was a very brisk demand, with prices somewhat dearer in the commoner sorts of American, but in the better grades, say 4d and upwards—buyers have more choice out of the recent imports, which are being freely offered as yielding a tempting profit.

Sauvats were steady and in good request; Brazil's demand. Sales of the day amounted to from 11,000 to 12,000 bales, as follows:—700 Egyptian, at 54 to 63; 1,800 Perams-Bahia, Marcho, at 42 to 51; 700 Maranhams, at 44 to 45; and the residue American, at 24 to 54, principally at 34 to 41.

Grainstuffs.—Flour has declined 1/2 per bbl. Corn is quiet, with no change in prices.

Provisions.—New Prime and Mess.

Pork were much wanted, and there was quite a demand for Lard at the late reduced prices. Money Market.—The Share market was much improved, closing buoyant, with more buyers daily than the amount of stock offering could supply.

England.—Parliament has been prorogued by the Queen until the first day of February.

France.—It is generally believed that Gen. Cavaignac will submit with good grace to the will of the people, as expressed in the late election, and will tender his services to the President elect. Other reports, however, have it that he will retire from public life altogether.

The Election.

From the returns received from the provinces, it appears that of all the votes cast, Louis Napoleon, has 66 per cent; Cavaignac 21; Rollin 6; Raspail 4, and Lamartine 3. The new President will be proclaimed on Wednesday or Thursday, 21st or 22nd.

Louis Napoleon it is reported, has had difficulty from restraining his too zealous friends from at once proclaiming the empire. He acts with prudence and has induced his friends not to celebrate, as was contemplated the anniversary of the funeral of the Emperor Napoleon, fearing that it might lead to disorder.

Louis Napoleon further declares that his late manifesto was his own composition and was intended to answer the charge brought against him of incapacity.

It is generally believed that the new ministry remains to be seen. From such hasty materials as we could procure, we present the following brief notice of his history:

Charles Louis Napoleon, son of Louis, Ex-King of Holland, was born in Paris, on the 20th of April, 1808. His god-parents were the Emperor and Maria Louisa, and during his childhood he was an especial favorite of the former. On the return of Napoleon from Elba, he stood by him in the Camp of St. Mene, and when embraced by him for the last time, at Malmaison, the young Louis, then a boy of seven years, wished to follow him at all hazards. When the family was banished from France, his mother returned to Augsburg, where he received a good German education. He afterwards took to Switzerland, where he obtained the right of citizenship, and commenced a course of military studies. After the July Revolution, by which he was a second time proscribed from France, he visited Italy in company with his brother, and in 1831 took part in a popular insurrection against the Pope. This movement failed, but he succeeded in making his escape, and, after a short stay in London, he returned to Switzerland, where he remained until 1834.

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FROM THE NEW ORLEANS PICTURES.

FROM TEXAS.

Dreadful Pestilence in the 8th Regiment of Infantry.—The following is an extract of a letter we received yesterday, from a friend, dated:

FORT LAVACA, Dec. 24, 1848.

A fearful and unheard of pestilence is in our midst; the blood almost cures at the thought. In the 8th Regiment of the U. S. Infantry, have been buried, last night, in the very centre of our village, there were forty or fifty dead, and now, as I am writing, three loads of dead bodies, drawn and distorted in all manner of shapes, are passing within ten feet of my door. The most exaggerated descriptions of plague, cholera, or pestilence, could not equal the reality. In 24 hours ending this morning, husband and wife, father and son, have breathed their last, in the same bed, and the strong and well man, that followed the sick to the hospital, in six hours has been cold and stiff in death.

The Regiment arrived here scarce eight days ago. On the passage, the sick and dying were carried, as the men landed, they were marched out some one and a half miles, and encamped to await transportation. After remaining some three days, a large part of the Regiment was advanced some ten miles for the sake of wool and water. The first cases occurred on the 19th and 20th, and increased so rapidly, and terminated so fatally, that the commanding officer obtained some houses, and marched the remainder of the Regiment, with the sick and dying, to our town. Last night, in one house, some forty or fifty cases terminated fatally; and now, 10 A. M., forty unburied dead are piled in one small house. Panic is among the men and alarm among the officers. So far, the citizens have escaped.

Dec. 26, 1848. The 48 hours, about 110 more deaths have occurred. This morning, only four new cases reported. Citizens left exempt.

We have obtained the following information from the Quartermaster's Department in this city:

The official returns received, report the deaths of 75, up to 10 A. M., on the 25th. Among which, the only officer was 2d Lieut. James A. Deane, and Lieut. Hennen, as well as the Galveston News, of the 28th:—Lieut. Fink had been attacked, but had recovered.

The Regiment had marched from Port Lavaca, leaving the sick behind. The officers and families were well.

A SKETCH OF LOUIS NAPOLEON.

The news of the election of Louis Napoleon to the Presidency of the French Republic, will naturally excite some curiosity in regard to his history and public character. Hitherto he has been only known through the foolish and the stupid, and the ignorant, and the uneducated, who, without any other basis, have claimed for them by his adherents, having failed to enlarge his reputation. His life has, nevertheless, been somewhat eventful, and he does not lack the advantage of varied fortune and severe experience. Whether he has profited remains to be seen. From such hasty materials as we could procure, we present the following brief notice of his history:

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confusion and anarchy which have prevailed, the only political fabric which has not only stood firm amid the storm, but has not even been assailed by a menace, is that which rests upon a purely Democratic basis—in fact, begins and ends in the people."

Louis Napoleon's Election.

The London correspondent of the National Intelligencer, under date of the 15th Dec., thus remarks upon Louis Napoleon's election to the Presidency of France:

"Strange to say, the sober part of the Prince's friends now begin to be seriously alarmed at his immense success; they fear that in its train the cry of 'Vive l'Empereur' may be raised, and, if so, the most sagacious would not be able to say what would be the issue. Count Mole is represented to have said, 'Peut être qu'une jour nous aurons l'Empire!' It is curious to observe how some of our English journals, which have hitherto ridiculed Louis Napoleon's pretensions, are now finding out that he has not been so rash and absurd as he has been represented, and that, if he has not any great quantity of talents, he has great amiability and docility. His election, also, is called a payment of the debt which France owes to his family, doing honor to the Republic, and to the character. The liberties of Prussia and Austria and Italy are also to be secured by this restoration of a Bonaparte to power. The year 1848 has now surely completed its chapter of wonders!"

Merritt.

The brig Levant, Capt. Jellerson, of Wilmington, N. C., bound to Matanzas, was spoken on the 20th ult. Capt. Jellerson stated that he had trouble with his crew since leaving port, and on the morning of the 19th, finding the crew in a state of mutiny, and not being able to get any satisfaction from them, he shot one of them.

Sublime Peroration.

Strike for the green graves of your sires—"Strike for your alcers, your homes and for your hot air furnaces."

"Kitt's, we're the frying pan?"

"John got it, cutting mud and clam shells up the alley, with the cat for the horse."

The dear little fellow, what a genius he'll make; but go and get it. We are going to have company, and must fry some fish for dinner."

If the riches of both Indies—if the crowns of all the kingdoms of Europe were laid at my feet, in exchange for my love of reading, I would surrender them all.—Fendou.

When a person feels that he has not the ability to make another esteem him, he almost hates him.

A Medicine for All Seasons.

Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills suit complaints and all ages, and may be taken at all times and under all circumstances, with perfect safety. They are natural to the human constitution as food, and while they do not injure even the most delicate, there is scarcely a malady in the whole catalogue of human ills, but will yield to their influence.

Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills thoroughly cleanse the stomach and bowels from bilious and putrid humors, and purify the blood; and are, therefore, certain to drive pain or distress of every description from the body.

Beware of Counterfeits of all kinds. Some are made with sugar; others are made to resemble in outward appearance the original medicine. The safest course is, to purchase of the regular agents only.

For sale in Wilmington, N. C., by George R. French, Agent, who will supply dealers and agents at the Philadelphia prices.

Orders directed exclusively to the sale of Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills, wholesale and retail, 169 Race st., Philadelphia; 288 Greenwich st., New York, and 198 Tremont st., Boston.

MARRIED.

In Duplin county, on the 28th ult., by G. Sloan, Esq